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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have amended the Specification as set forth above in order to correct two minor typographical errors in which two reference numerals on page 15 did not properly correspond with Figure 6. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to correctly recite the type of claim from which they depend.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application No. US2002/0118656 (Agrawal). Agrawal discloses a method and system for facilitating the movement of a mobile station (or handset) by providing the IP addresses for neighboring cells to the cell to which a mobile station is attached. Whenever a mobile station changes subnets it requires a new temporary IP address while it remains attached to the new subnet. The time needed to assign a new IP address to a mobile station needs to be minimized in order to maximize the delivery of data packets to the mobile station. Agrawal presents a method of efficiently providing a mobile station with the IP addresses assigned to neighboring cells before the mobile station enters the neighboring cell thereby reducing handoff latency. The serving base station requests, from neighboring base stations, IP addresses for the mobile stations it currently serves. These addresses are then provided to the mobile stations while at the serving base station. When the mobile station moves into a neighboring cell the mobile station uses the requested addresses and begins to communicate with the base station of the neighboring cell which becomes the new serving base station.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that the system and method claimed in the present application is anticipated by the Agrawal reference. The present invention is aimed at a method and system for configuring a modular wireless system. As base stations are added to the modular wireless system of the present invention the stations automatically identify other base stations in the network and communicate with one another to establish coverage areas and to hand-off wireless communications with wireless devices.

With respect to claim 1, applicants submit that Agrawal does not teach the claimed method of communicating in which a second base station automatically identifies the first base station and is able to handoff the wireless device from the first cell to a second cell by way of a two way exchange of information from the first base station to the second base station. In Agrawal there is an address server 259 that is responsible for assigning IP addresses to base stations, however, there is no discussion in Agrawal of any type of automatic identification of neighboring (or other) base stations in the network. In the present invention a base station connected to a packet network after the original configuration of the network is able to automatically identify other base stations in the network including its

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neighbors. Agrawal does not address this because it is directed only to the issue of hand-off and not automatic configuration.

With respect to claim 2, Agrawal does not teach or suggest the additional step of the first and second base stations exchanging information over the packet network to determine a coverage area for the second cell served by the second base station. The Examiner points to FIG. 2A of Agrawal and cell base station 220, backbone network 255 and cell 210. The Examiner does not, however, point to any portion of the specification of Agrawal that specifically sets forth a method of communicating in which first and second base station exchange information over the packet network to determine the coverage area for the second cell served by the second base station. There is no discussion of determining coverage area in Agrawal at all.

With respect to claim 3, applicants additionally assert that the steps of claim 3 are not disclosed in Agrawal. Agrawal is aimed at reserving an IP address for a mobile station prior to it entering into a neighboring cell and there is no discussion of how a newly connected second base station discovers all other base stations in a network. According to Agrawal, "each base station 220 requests and reserves IP addresses from neighboring cells and assigns such addresses to the mobile stations 230 it serves." (paragraph 0025). This does not teach or suggest the steps of having a newly connected second base station transmit a message requesting address for other base stations connected to the packet network in order to communicate with the other base stations in the network.

With respect to claim 4, the steps of identifying the other base stations in the network are further refined having the newly added second base station first send a request to a central database requesting an address for the carrier database. Agrawal does not even disclose a central database. The Examiner cites address server 259 anticipating both the use of a central database and a carrier database. These two databases are not the same. The central database is a database of IP addresses of carrier databases and is queried when during the automatic identification the second base station does not know the address of the carrier database for the other base stations. Agrawal does disclose a central database that contains the IP addresses of other databases.

With respect to claim 5, applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Agrawal of transmitting a broadcast message from the second base station on the packet network in order to identify the other base stations in the network. This automatic identification function is neither taught nor disclosed by Agrawal. In Agrawal, the serving base station communicates with neighboring base stations in order to reserve an IP address for a mobile station in

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advance. The communication is for a different purpose and is not accomplished via a broadcast message over the packet network.

With respect to claims 6, 7, 8 and 9, applicants contend that they depend from novel and non-obvious claim 1.

With respect to claim 10, applicants submit that Agrawal does not teach the claimed system in which a first base station automatically identifies a second base station and wherein the first base station and second base station handoff the wireless device from the first cell to a second cell by way of a two way exchange of information from the first base station to the second base station. In Agrawal there is an address server 259 that is responsible for assigning IP addresses to base stations, however, there is no discussion in Agrawal of any type of automatic identification of neighboring (or other) base stations in the network. In the present invention a base station connected to a packet network after the original configuration of the network is able to automatically identify other base stations in the network including its neighbors. Agrawal does not address this because it is directed only to the issue of hand-off and not automatic configuration.

With respect to claim 11, Agrawal does not teach or suggest a system in which the first and second base stations are capable of exchanging information over the packet network to determine a coverage area for the second cell served by the second base station. The Examiner points to FIG. 2A of Agrawal and cell base station 220, link 250 and cell 210. The Examiner does not, however, point to any portion of the specification of Agrawal that specifically sets forth a system in which first and second base stations are capable of exchanging information over the packet network to determine the coverage area for the second cell served by the second base station. There is no discussion of a system for determining coverage area in Agrawal.

With respect to claim 12, applicants additionally assert that the system of claim 12 is not disclosed in Agrawal. Agrawal is aimed at reserving an IP address for a mobile station prior to it entering into a neighboring cell and there is no discussion of how a newly connected second base station discovers all other base stations in a network. According to Agrawal, "each base station 220 requests and reserves IP addresses from neighboring cells and assigns such addresses to the mobile stations 230 it serves." (paragraph 0025). This does not teach or suggest a system in which a newly connected first base station transmit a message to a carrier database requesting address for other base stations connected to the packet network in order to communicate with the other base stations in the network.

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With respect to claim 13, a system wherein the second base station sends a request to a central database requesting an address for the carrier database in its attempt to identify other base stations in the network is not disclosed in Agrawal. Agrawal does not even disclose a central database. The Examiner cites address server 259 anticipating both the use of a central database and a carrier database. These two databases cannot be the same. The central database is a database of IP addresses of carrier databases and is queried when during the automatic identification the second base station does not know the address of the carrier database for the other base stations.

With respect to claim 14, applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Agrawal of a system in which a first base station transmits a broadcast message on the packet network in order to identify the other base stations in the network. This automatic identification functions is neither taught nor disclosed by Agrawal. In Agrawal, the serving base station communicates with neighboring base stations in order to reserve an IP address for a mobile station in advance. The communication is for a different purpose and is not accomplished via a broadcast message over the packet network.

With respect to claim 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, applicants contend that they depend from novel and non-obvious claim 1.

With respect to claim 20, applicants contend that Agrawal neither teaches nor suggests a base station for communicating with a wireless device having a network interface that connects to a packet network; an antenna interface that connects to an antenna for communicating with one or more wireless devices in a first cell served by the base station; a memory that includes: a program for automatically identifying other base stations, and a program for engaging in a two way information exchange with one of the other base stations to hand off, from the first cell to a second cell served by the other base station, one or more of the wireless devices in the first cell; and a processor that executes the program. Specifically, there is no disclosure in Agrawal of a program for automatically identifying other base stations.

Agrawal does not teach or suggest applicants' novel methods and systems as set forth in claims 1-20. Applicants submit that these claims are clearly allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims are therefore requested.

Applicants earnestly believe that this application is now in condition to be passed to issue, and such action is also respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems it

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would in any way facilitate the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone applicants' agent at the number given below.

A petition for a two-month extension of time is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,
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